

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 00466 032226Z

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USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-01 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9213

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJ: U.S. TRADE ACT OF 1974

SUMMARY: "LA PRENSA" EDITORIAL OF FEB. 1, TITLED "THE STRANGLERS OF THE ECONOMY OF LATIN AMERICA" DISCUSSES U.S. TRADE ACT OF 1974, OPEC, THE OAS RESOLUTION AND COMMENTS UPON THE SOLICITATION BY VENEZUELA FOR LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY FOR TRADE ACT. FINALLY, THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON THE FACT THAT VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR HAVE OBLIGATIONS TO THE OAS AS WELL AS THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. SELECTED QUOTES FROM EDITORIAL. "THE COMMERCIAL LAW OF THE U.S. HAS PROVOKED A TREMENDOUS IMPACT IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO THE DEGREE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 27 IN BUENOS AIRES HAS BEEN CANCELLED
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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 00466 032226Z

AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS TO SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN

COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE THE "LARGE DIALOGUE" HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.

2. "VENEZUELA IS ONE OF THE NATIONS MOST AFFECTED BY PARA 5 OF THE TRADE ACT WHICH EXCLUDES OPEC MEMBERS OR OTHERS THAT PARTICIPATE IN AGREEMENTS TO BLOCK THE PROVISION OF RESOURCES OR PRODUCTS VITAL TO INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE OR INCREASE THE PRICE OF SUCH PRODUCTS TO LEVEL THAT CAUSE SERIOUS DISRUPTION OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY."

3. THE EDITORIAL DISCUSSES THE OAS RESOLUTION AND CITES THE POINT THAT ALL OAS MEMBERS SHOULD USE ALL THEIR CAPACITIES TO AVOID ACTS THAT HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT UPON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OTHERS. THE EDITORIAL CITES THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DECLARATION IN SANTO TOMAS DE CASTILLA STATING THAT THE U.S. LAW CONTAINS POSITIVE ELEMENTS.

4. "BUT WE ARE FACED WITH A DOUBT CONCERNING THE CITED RESOLUTION OF THE OAS. ARE NOT THESE NORMS APPLICABLE TO LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE OAS THAT PRODUCE PETROLEUM? IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE U.S. LAW PREJUDICES SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, THEN IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT OPEC, WHICH HAS TWO LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS, IS STRANGULATING TO THE POINT OF DESPERATION THE WORLD ECONOMY ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE UNDER DEVELOPED NATIONS SUCH AS HONDURAS, THAT BECAUSE OFPP EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH PRICES FOR PETROLEUM ARE CONDEMED TO DIE OF HUNGER. THE ECONOMY OF ALMOST ALL THE NATIONS OF AMERICA THAT DO NOT PRODUCE PETROLEUM IS IN COMPLETE BANKRUPTCY, IN THE TWILIGHT OF COLLAPESE, WHILE THOSE THAT PRODUCE ENERGY ABOUND IN PROSPERITY. THE NEW RICH SEE THAT THEIR POOR BROTHERS ARE DYING OF HUNGER WHICH IS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO THEM BUT THEY ASK THEIRHELP IN ORDER TO CONDEMN THE COMMERCIAL LAW WHICH HAS BEEN DECREED BY THE "GRINGOS."

5. "IS THE COMMERCIAL LAW UNJUST AND IS IT JUST THAT THE NONPRODUCERS OF PETROLEUM DROWN IN UNDER-DEVELOPMENT AND MISERY BECAUSE THIS PLEASES THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND THEIR AMERICAN PARTNERS?

6. "IN REALITY, THE ARAB PRODUCERS OF PETROLEUM DO NOT HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TEGUCI 00466 032226Z

TO SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO THE "ECONOMIC NORMS OF THE OAS" BUT THEIR PARTNERS IN LATIN AMERICA DO HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO RESPECT THESE NORMS AND COMPLY WITH THEM. VENEZUELA AS WELL AS THE U.S. HAS SEAT IN THE ACCUSED DOCK OF THE OAS".

7. THE EDITORIAL ENDS WITH A SARCASTIC ACCUSATION AGAINST VENEZUELA. "THIS IS AN EXCELLENT METHOD TO PRACTICE CONTINENTAL SOLIDARITY."

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